

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 2 and 11, as shown below.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended): An atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting, comprising:
a core coupled with a coating; ~~and~~
wherein the core is an insulator; and
wherein the coating is adapted to communicate electrically with a media device.

Claims 3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Amended):An atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting, comprising:
a core coupled with a coating; and
wherein the coating contacts a media device.
8. (Original): The atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting of claim 7, wherein the coating is harder than the media device.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Amended):An atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting, comprising:
a core coupled with a coating; and
wherein the coating prevents the core from making any contact with a media device.

11. (Currently Amended): An atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting, comprising:

a core coupled with a coating; ~~and~~

wherein the coating is embedded into the core; and

wherein the coating is adapted to communicate electrically with a media.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Amended):An atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting, comprising:

a core coupled with a coating; and

wherein the coating is coupled with a plurality of atomic probe sides.

Claims 14 and 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Amended):An atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting, comprising:

an atomic probe tip; and

one or more carbon nano-tubes attached or formed on the atomic probe tip;

whereby the one or more carbon nano-tubes are attached or formed on the atomic probe tip such that the carbon nano-tubes reduce the interface between the atomic probe tip and a media device.

17. (Previously Amended):An atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting, comprising:

a core coupled with a coating; and

wherein the coating includes a narrow band extending from a first side of the atomic probe, over a tip of the atomic probe to a second side of the atomic probe.

18. (Previously Amended):An atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting, comprising:

a core coupled with a coating; and

including a protective material coupled with the coating.

19. (Original): The atomic probe for high density data storage reading, writing, erasing, or rewriting of claim 18, wherein the protective material is an insulator.